

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-20 SSO-00 SP-03 NSC-07

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 L-03

CPR-02 SCA-01 SY-04 DRC-01 EURE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIE-00 A-01 DODE-00 SAJ-01 /092 W
----- 051504

O P 061452Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2276

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13581

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: EMBASSY PROTEST ON SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH DIPLOMATIC
COURIERS

1. ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA U.S.A.
DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV TO PRESENT DIPLOMATIC
NOTE PROTESTING SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH EMBASSY
DIPLOMATIC COURIERS ON MOSCOW-LENINGRAD ROAD. TEXT
OF NOTE FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. NO. 1281. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA WISHES TO BRING THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE FOLLOWING.

ON AUGUST 27, 1974, A TRUCK BELONGING TO THE JOHN NURMINEN
COMPANY WAS TRANSPORTING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
EQUIPMENT FROM MOSCOW TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENERAL IN LENINGRAD, WITH ATTACHE OF EMBASSY GORDON
HARVEY AND EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY JAMES GLENN
ACCOMPANYING AS DIPLOMATIC COURIERS. AT APPROXIMATELY
1255, WHILE STOPPED BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD NEAR THE
101-KILOMETER MARK, A GAI JEEP STOPPED AND DIRECTED
THE TRUCK TO PROCEED TO THE GAI STATION. THERE THE
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GAI MILITIA WERE JOINED BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED

PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO, DESPITE THE FACT THAT MR. HARVEY HAD SHOWN THEM HIS DIPLOMATIC COURIER LETTER AND EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE DIPLOMATIC POUCHES IN THE TRUCK, REPEATEDLY ATTEMPTED TO SEPARATE THE COURIERS FROM THE TRUCK. ON EIGHT OCCASIONS MR. HARVEY ASKED PERMISSION TO TELEPHONE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND WAS REFUSED. AT APPROXIMATELY 1515 THE TRUCK AND COURIERS WERE RELEASED.

THE EMBASSY PROTESTS THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED ACTIONS OF SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO, IN DETAINING THE AMERICAN COURIERS FOR ALMOST TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS AND DENYING THEM TELEPHONE ACCESS TO THEIR EMBASSY, VIOLATED PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AS WELL AS GENERALLY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL NORMS. THE EMBASSY TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS VIOLATION AND EXPECTS THAT THE MINISTRY WILL PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION AND ALSO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. END TEXT.

3. FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE INCIDENT AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT. IF QUERIED BY THE PRESS, WE PLAN TO CONFIRM THAT INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AND THAT WE HAVE PROTESTED IT. WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT ALSO RAISE MATTER WITH SOVIET EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC POUCHES, COURIERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW13581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740248-0076
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740969/aaaacgcy.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <16 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY PROTEST ON SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH DIPLOMATIC COURIERS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005